

THE STAR CHAMBER.

ONE PLAIN AMERICAN CITIZEN HEARS ITS SECRETS

And the Body Much Upset--A Red-Hot Interview Between Reed and Harrison--Notes.

(From Our Regular Correspondent)

WASHINGTON, December 19.--The House was not in session to-day. The Senate was, however, and about the only interesting thing that happened over the rest of the day was the locking in of a lone listener in one of the galleries. This individual sat erect for many minutes and listened at times to the arguments of the members of the "House of Lords," for as long as any law-makers in this far American could insist on barring the doors and keeping from the people their acts they cannot be regarded as a body representing America, and the sentiments of the House of Representatives. As soon as the man in the gallery had been discovered he was a committee-man, and the question demanded was whether the man in the gallery, he put out. Old Captain Isaac Bassett, who has been in the employ of the Senate for more than half a century, came near having committed suicide, it was sent up to his room to investigate the matter, and the poor doorkeeper who failed to clear his gallery will probably lose his position. Senators of the Edmunds type will feel very bad indeed if any American citizen accidentally heard some of the star-chamber proceedings today, but it is fortunate for our American institutions that a great many of our senators have as supreme contempt for the Edmunds as they have as the average private citizen.

A story was circulating around Washington in regard to a red-hot interview one day this week between Presidents Harrison and Reed. The latter, it seems, went to the White House to call on the President, and on his arrival to office, the place was wanted in Speaker Reed's own district. The Speaker went to recommend quite highly the applicant. The President listened attentively, and then asked the statesman what had any bearing in the case.

Mr. Reed said that he had, and, holding up a package, said: "These are my notes for the press." The President asked him for the papers, saying: "I never make an appointment unless I examine the papers carefully and satisfy myself as to the applicant's character and fitness." Mr. Reed just as Mr. Harrison reached for the paper, exclaimed: "Wait a minute, Mr. President!" and turned on his big No. 11 shoes and left the room in an indignant fit of mind.

BIG HEAD.

The Speaker has an idea that his position entitles him to some influence, and did not propose to have even the President of the United States call on him to the independent Mr. Harrison has put upon many public men in the past few months. Mr. Reed has won his honors in spite of the Blaines and the Harrisons, and he asks no odds of anybody in the party. He is a very independent sort of a man.

So many bills were introduced in the House yesterday that it was impossible, owing to the confusion, to get a record of all, and therefore the following is offered by Virginia members were not mentioned in last night's correspondence.

By Mr. O'FALLAH: To open and build a roadway to Federal cemetery at Winchester.

To preserve the grave General Daniel Morgan and to erect a monument over the same.

By Mr. Browne: To pay to the several States and Territories the money collected under the direct-tax levied by act of Congress in 1861.

For establishment of a light-house on Page's Rock, Va.

To establish a range and other necessary lights at the entrance to the harbor of Cape Charles City, Va.

For the erection of a new tower near the site of the light-house on Smith's Island, Va.

For the establishment of a first-order light-house on Hog Island, Va.

For the completion of the monument to Major the mother of Washington at Fredericksburg.

To provide for macadamizing the road from Fredericksburg to the national cemetery in Fredericksburg.

For experimenting with electricity as a motive power in its application to marine architecture.

To obtain for paving advances made to the United States by the States of Maryland and Virginia.

To establish a station at Gwynn's and Tangier islands in Virginia, for the culture of the oyster and pearl fish.

Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Bingham of the Virginia delegation, have not yet introduced any bills. It was a complete surprise to many of the members yesterday that the House, which had not been in session, and did not have their bills with them. However, members who introduce bills later can have a better showing in the papers. Such a flood as there was yesterday simply overwhelmed the Associated Press, and every one who had to write about the House proceedings.

JOHN HOWARD OF RICHMOND, and William A. GUTHRIE, of Durham, N. C., are at the National Museum.

Mr. J. D. Abrams, deputy Comptroller of the Currency, left last night for a two weeks' visit in Virginia. He will go to New York, then to Philadelphia, Boston, and visit his brothers and sisters in Fowltown county, and stop to see some of his Richmond friends before returning to Washington.

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1889.

Senate.

The House concurrent resolution for a holiday recess from Saturday next till Monday, January 6th, was presented and concurred in.

Among the bills reported from committee and placed on the calendar are the following: To amend the act relating to the eleventh census; for a light-station at Hillsboro, Fla.; for leave of absence to officers of the navy; for the service who receive a permanent compensation.

REED.

Rev. Frederick Skinner, rector of Trinity Church, New York, was appointed to take charge of a church at Albany, N. Y.

INANITY.

It is said that fifty vessels are now unfortunately engaged in carrying away oysters from the natural beds in Pamlico sound and other sounds and rivers near by. In some places they have taken all the oysters, and it is to be hoped that in a short time a general ban will be placed on the oysters.

Mr. Martin Evans, foreman of the Danville Construction Company, at work on the Atlantic and Danville railroad, was accidentally killed in a blast of powder while he was working on a bridge over the Danville and Danville railroad.

The track of the Lynchburg and Petersburg railroad will be completed to the city of Lynchburg, and the distance to the city will be 187 miles.

HALIFAX MATTERS.

At Henderson day before yesterday the dead body of an infant was found in a tobacco warehouse. It is thought that the infant was born in the warehouse, and it was found in a corner which contained some familiar articles.

All work on the Sanders gold-mine, in Mountaineer county, has been stopped, and the miners are idle.

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Death-Killed by a Blast--Drowned in a Well.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

SOUTH BOSTON, Va., December 19.--A Mr. English, who had been working on the construction of the Lynchburg and Petersburg railroad at Hillsboro, Courthouse, died at that place last Tuesday evening. His death was very sudden and was caused by inflammation of the stomach. His remains were carried to his home at Beaver Gap.

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DANVILLE, Va., December 19.--It is learned here that a highly diplomatic correspondence between the Governor of North Carolina and the Governor of North Carolina is likely to result from an arrangement made by Mr. W. H. T. Burgess, of Rutherford county, this State. It is charged that a mother and daughter were taken from Spartanburg county, S. C., and bound and forcibly carried to Cleveland, Ohio, where they were held for ransom, and their son, Burgess, and his wife, were compelled to commit an rape. It is said the parties kidnapped were poor and friendless, and that strong efforts have been made to keep the master from his wife. He is a business man, and was so courteous and pleasant in all his dealing that he had the good will of everyone.

The afternoon the City Council held a meeting and passed a resolution requesting the Mayor to investigate thoroughly the cause of the accident, and a special committee was appointed to inquire if further legislation is necessary to protect his life and limb and property on the streets of the city.

WILLIAMSBURG.

The Social Season--Political Notes.

(Correspondence to the Richmond Dispatch.)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., December 19, 1889. It is the custom of the Williamsburg German Club to give an occasional entertainment during the season and on to-morrow (Friday) night the first German in December will be given at Cameron Hall, and

Every bottle of Hood's Sarape will contain 100 doses, and is a fair equivalent for a dollar.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

WHEELING, W. Va., December 19.--The expert committee examining the acts of the Legislature of West Virginia, which were referred to a select committee on that subject, held a hearing yesterday. It was confined to the Union Pacific and its branches, and that his amendment applied to the Central Pacific and its branches. The Senate then proceeded to executive business.

After business had begun with closed doors a solitary young man was discovered in the galleries quietly surveying the scene below him, and apparently entering and leaving the premises frequently. He was soon hustled out. He was about eighteen, and had been to jail for a prolonged stay. He had nothing to say for himself, and was not detained. The doorkeeper explained that he was probably asleep under one of the benches when the galleries were cleared and escaped unnoticed.

After the doors were reopened a message was received from the House announcing the death (during the recess) of Representative Ladd of Nebraska, Townsend of Illinois, and Cox of New York. Resolutions of sympathy were passed by both houses of the Legislature, and the Senate were offered by Messrs. Marston, Culver, and Evans and were agreed to, and as a further mark of respect to the deceased in the Senate, at 4:30 adjourned until to-morrow.

In executive session a large amount of routine business was transacted, about 200 nominations confirmed, and as many more rejected by the committee and placed on the calendar. The names of the candidates were of general interest, and some no longer in office.

During the session Mr. McPherson criticising the statement of the President, and before voting to confirm the appointment wanted to know for what reason the old document had been removed. Whereupon Mr. Edmunds reminded him of the

fact that he (Mr. McPherson) with other senators had voted to repeal the tenure of office act, thereby depriving the Senate of the right to elect the President or the head of any department why any removal from office was made.

In the Senate today, Mr. Chandler had a speech in which he offered by him self many times in regard to the organizations among naval officers to influence congressional legislation, and made a statement on the subject. He desired if possible to be allowed to speak, but he could hardly afford to pay money, which they could poorly spare, for the purpose of influencing legislation. He said that a year or two ago Thomas C. Cooley, a naval officer, had a speech in the navy prepared a bill for the increase of rank and the pay of officers of the navy. In connection with that bill Mr. Chandler was sent to the Clerk's desk and his report was from Cooley and John B. Spencer, and he was told that his speech had been read by the members of the "House of Lords," for as long as any law-makers in this far American could insist on barring the doors and keeping from the people their acts they cannot be regarded as a body representing America, and the sentiments of the House of Representatives. As soon as the man in the gallery had been discovered he was a committee-man, and the question demanded was whether the man in the gallery, he put out. Old Captain Isaac Bassett, who has been in the employ of the Senate for more than half a century, came near having committed suicide, it was sent up to his room to investigate the matter, and the poor doorkeeper who failed to clear his gallery will probably lose his position. Senators of the Edmunds type will feel very bad indeed if any American citizen accidentally heard some of the star-chamber proceedings today, but it is fortunate for our American institutions that a great many of our senators have as supreme contempt for the Edmunds as they have as the average private citizen.

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RALEIGH GLEANINGS:

Another Blockade Still Captured--White

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